

CLAIMS:

- 5 1. Saddle (10) for horseback riding, comprising a saddle base (30) that is anatomically adapted to the horseback, and a saddle seat (40), the saddle seat (40) is detachably arranged on the saddle base (30) **characterized in** that the saddle base (30) is arranged to be secured on the horseback and that the saddle seat (40) is arranged to be secured to the saddle base (30).
- 10 2. Saddle (10) according to claim 1 **characterized in** that the saddle seat (40) is retained on the saddle base (30) by a quick fastening system (70), such that the saddle seat (40) easily can be detached/attached from/to the saddle base (30).
- 15 3. Saddle (10) according to claim 2 **characterized in** that the quick fastening system (70) is comprised of a base structure (80) on the saddle base (30), and a mating structure (90) with a locking mechanism (110) on the saddle seat (40).
- 20 4. Saddle (10) according to any of the claims 1 to 3 **characterized in** that saddle seats (40) with different seating characteristics can be arranged on the base (30), such that the saddle (10) can be adapted to different riders and/or riding disciplines.
- 25 5. Saddle (10) according to any of the claims 1 to 4 **characterized in** that the saddle (10) can be anatomically adapted to more than one horse or type of horse by providing a number of different saddle bases (30) with different characteristics.
- 30 6. Saddle base (30) for a horseback saddle (10), comprising two pressure distributors (120) that are interconnected by a bridging arrangement (130) that provides clearance over the spinal region, **characterized in** that each pressure distributor (120) comprises a non flexible section (170) and a peripheral flexing portion (180, 180a, 180b, 180c).
7. Saddle base (30) according to claim 6 **characterized in** that each flexing portion (180) is divided into two or more individual flexing portions (180a, 180b, 180c) by at least

one flexing notch (190).

- 5 8. Saddle base (30) according to claim 6 or 7 **characterized in** that the bridging arrangement (130) on each side is provided with at least one stiffener (200) that extends over a section the pressure distributor (120).
- 10 9. Saddle base (30) according to any of the claims 6 to 8 **characterized in** that the bridging arrangement (130) on each side is provided with two stiffeners (200), the first in the front region of the base and the other in the rear region.
- 15 10. Saddle base according to any of the claims 6 to 9 **characterized in** that the bridging arrangement is essentially continuous along the length of the base.
- 20 11. Saddle base (30) according to any of the claims 6 to 10 **characterized in** that each pressure distributor (120) has a width to length ratio that is greater than 1/5, preferably greater than 1/4, and most preferably greater than 1/3.
- 25 12. Saddle base (30) according to any of the claims 6 to 11 **characterized in** that the pressure distributors (120) and the bridging arrangement (130) are integrally formed as one piece.
- 30 13. Saddle base (30) according to any of the claims 6 to 12 **characterized in** that it is formed in a fiber reinforced composite material.
14. Saddle base (30) according to claim 13 **characterized in** that the fibers are chosen from the group of carbon, glass, and kevlar fibers.
15. Saddle base (30) according to claim any of the claims 6 to 12 **characterized in** that that it is formed by injection molding a polymeric material.
16. Saddle base (30) according to claim any of the claims 6 to 12 **characterized in** that it is comprised of a pressed sheet metal.

17. Saddle base (30) according to any of the claims 6 to 16 **characterized in** that it is provided with fastening structures (80) for a detachable saddle seat (40).
18. Saddle seat (40) for a horseback saddle (10) **characterized in** that it is provided with fastening structures (90, 100, 110) for detachable fastening of the same to a saddle base (30).
19. Saddle seat (40) according to claim 18 **characterized in** that the saddle seat comprises a rigid seat base (50).
20. Saddle pad (40) for a horseback saddle (10) **characterized in** that at least a section of the peripheral edge of the saddle pad (20) is formed as a clasping edge (210) that is arranged to clasp the peripheral edge of a saddle base (30) according to any of the claims 6 to 17.
21. Method of providing a saddle (10) for a specific horse and rider combination, **characterized by** the steps:
- providing a saddle base (30) that is of suitable size for the horse,
- providing an, for the rider, suitable saddle seat (40), and
- detachably arranging the saddle seat(40) onto the saddle base (30).
22. Method of providing a saddle (10) according to claim 21 **characterized in** that it comprises the additional step of:
- providing an, for the horse, saddle pad (20) that fit in between the saddle base and the horseback.
23. Method of providing a saddle (10) according to claim 21 or 22 **characterized in** that the step of providing a saddle base (30) comprises:

selecting from a set of saddle bases (30) a saddle base (30) of suitable size for the horse.

- 5 24. Method of providing a saddle (10) according to claim 21 or 22 **characterized in** that the step of providing a saddle base (30) comprises:

forming the saddle base (30) to fit the back of the specific horse.

- 10 25. Method of providing a saddle (10) according to any of the claims 21 to 24, **characterized in** that the step of providing a saddle seat (40) comprises:

selecting from a set of saddle seats (40) a saddle seat (40) that fits the rider.

- 15 26. Method of providing a saddle (10) according to any of the claims 21 to 25; **characterized in** that the step of providing a saddle pad (20) comprises:

selecting from a set of saddle pads (20) a saddle pad (20) that fit in between the saddle base and the horseback.

- 20 27. Method of providing a saddle (10) according to any of the claims 21 to 25, **characterized in** that the step of providing a saddle pad (20) comprises:

forming the saddle pad (20) to fit the back of the specific horse.

- 25 28. Saddle (10) according to any of the claims 1 to 5 **characterized in** that the saddle (10) with a stirrup system comprising

a guide (320) extending from a front end region (330) of the saddle (340) to a rear end region (350) of the saddle (340); and

- 30 a stirrup (360) that is supported by and allowed to move along the guide (320).

- 5 29. Saddle (10) according to claim 28 **characterized in** that the guide (320) is a bendable element that is supported by the saddle (340) at the front end region (330) and at the rear end region (350) thereof, and that the guide element (320) is essentially longer than the shortest distance between the front end region (330) and the rear end region (350).
- 10 30. Saddle (10) according to claim 28 or 29 characterized in that the guide (320) is supported by a front fixing point (330) and a rear fixing point (350), wherein the front fixing point (330) is formed such that the length of the guide (320) is adjustable, whereby the height of the stirrup (360) can be adjusted.
- 15 31. Saddle (10) according to any of the claims 28 to 30 characterized in that the rear fixing point (350) is arranged at the longitudinal centre of the saddle (340), and that the guides (320) from both sides of the saddle (340) are attached to the same rear fixing point (350).
- 20 32. Saddle (10) according to any of the claims 28 to 31 characterized in that the guide(s) (320) is(are) attached to the rear fixing point (350) by a release mechanism (370) arranged to release the guide (320) when a rider falls off the horse, whereby the stirrup (360) is free to move past the loose end of the guide (320) and thus can be detached from the same.
- 25 33. Saddle (10) according any of the claims 28 to 32 characterized in that the stirrup (360) is supported on the guide by a runner (420, 440).
- 30 34. Saddle (10) according claim 33 characterized in that the movement of the runner (420, 440) along the guide (320) is damped.
- 35 35. Saddle (10) according to 33 or 34 characterized in that the stirrup (360) and the runner (420, 440) are formed as one unit.